



Carteret County Sheriff's Office

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NEWS RELEASE

Carteret pair arrested on narcotics charges

On 06-28-2013 the North Carolina State Highway Patrol conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 70 in the Newport area with the assistance of Carteret County Sheriff's Deputies. The vehicle stop revealed the occupants to be Joseph Paul-Bird Costa, 23, of 403 Brooks Street, Apartment C-14, Morehead City and Steven Gregory Lester, 21, of 121 Kevin Court, Beaufort.

The driver, Steven Lester, was found to not have a valid driver's license. Deputies searched the vehicle and located and seized 148 bags of Heroin, syringes, \$1,800.00 in United States Currency and other drug paraphernalia.

Costa and Lester were arrested and charged with 3 counts each of Trafficking in Heroin. Lester was also charged with Felony Maintaining a Vehicle to Keep, Sell or Store a Controlled Substance, No Operators License and DWI.

Lester and Costa were served with additional charges stemming from an undercover operation conducted by the Sheriff's Office.

Lester was charged with Sell and Deliver Heroin and Possession with Intent to Sell and Deliver Heroin and was booked into the Carteret County Jail under a \$103,000.00 bond.

Costa was charged with 2 counts of Sell and Deliver Heroin, 3 counts of Possession With Intent to Sell and Deliver Heroin and Felony Maintaining a Dwelling to Keep, Sell or Store a Controlled Substance and was booked into the Carteret County Jail under a \$250,000.00 secured bond.

Photos: Top-Lester, Bottom - Costa

